# **Driving Park Roads: Summer 2012**

# **Gasoline Stations**

No gas stations within the park boundaries. Only Grant Grove market sells cans of emergency gas. Fill up in Three Rivers, Clingan's Junction, or at:

- Hume Lake Christian Camp: 559-305-7770.
   Year-round 24 hours with credit card. 9 miles
   (14.5 km) north of Grant Grove via Hwy 180.
- Stony Creek Village: 1-559-565-3909. Through mid-Oct. 24 hours with credit card. Between Wuksachi & Grant Grove on Generals Hwy.
- Kings Canyon Lodge: 1-559-335-2405. Opens after 4/27. Gas sold 9am-dark, usually. 17 miles (27 km) from Grant Grove on Hwy 180.

# Recommendations

### **Don't Lose Your Brakes**

Frequent braking or keeping your foot on the brake pedal causes overheating and brake failure. Instead, always downshift when going downhill. In automatic vehicles, put the gearshift on 1, 2 or L. The engine gets louder, but it will save your brakes.

## **Emergency Car Repairs & Towing**

For a tow: 565-3341 then press zero (24 hours). In Sequoia Park only, 24-hour AAA for lock outs, jump starts, out-of-gas, minor repairs: 565-4070.

#### **Prevent Car Fires**

Hot brakes & mufflers can easily start fires. Stop only on paved areas, not on grasses.

## **Avoid Overheated Engines**

Keep an eye on your temperature gauge. If it starts to go up or the light comes on, especially on the uphill, turn off the air conditioner and turn on the fan. If the engine fails, pull into a paved area, lift the hood, and wait awhile for it to cool. If the problem is vapor lock, this may take care of it.

## Go Slow for Wildlife!

Never feed animals by the road. Cars often hit them if they wait for handouts on roadsides.



# **Driving Times** in good weather

#### From Foothills to:

Giant Forest 1½ hour minimum
Lodgepole 1½ hour minimum
Visalia 1 hour
Mineral King 1½ hours

(MK Road closed Nov. 1 - late May)

From Giant Forest to:

Grant Grove via Generals Hwy 1 hour

From Grant Grove to:

(via Hwy 41)

Cedar Grove 1 hour
(Road open mid-May to mid-November)
Fresno 1½ hours
Yosemite south entry 3 hours

# **Narrow Winding Roads**

In Kings Canyon & National Forest:

- Panoramic Point Road: Motorhomes/trailers not permitted.
- Redwood Mountain (NPS), & Big Meadows, Quail Flat/Ten Mile, Converse Basin (USFS): unpaved.

#### In Sequoia:

- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow: Vehicle-length limit 22'; no trailers or towed units. Through 9/9 (shuttle operation season; see page 6): On weekends & holidays, private vehicles are prohibited on the road. Exception: those with valid disabled-parking placard or wilderness permit.
- Crystal Cave Road: Maximum vehicle cumulative length 22' (6.7m).
- Mineral King Road: RVs & trailers not recommended (not permitted in campgrounds).
   Prohibited: single vehicles over 40 feet long, combination vehicles over 50 feet.
- South Fork & Middle Fork roads: Partially unpaved. Slippery when wet.

# **Rules of the Road**

**Use Turnouts to Let Others Pass** 

Pull over to let traffic behind you get by.

#### Bicycles

Ride on roads, not trails. Obey traffic rules. Wear light colors at night. Under 18: helmet required.

# Construction Delays



See bulletin boards at visitor centers for updates and details. Thank you for your patience.

## **Generals Highway Reconstruction**

Amphitheater Point to Deer Ridge (1.5 miles between Hospital Rock & Giant Forest). Delays through 8/2012. Schedules may change. Starting in September, check locally for schedules:

- Monday-Thursday, some Fridays: Delays up to 1 hour 8am-5pm; 20-minute delays 6-7am & 5-9pm. Night closures: Road closed Sunday through Thurday nights 9pm-6am with one opportunity to pass through at 11:30pm.
- Saturday, Sunday, holidays: 20-minute delays on weekends and other non-working hours.

Length limit: Vehicles longer than 22' cannot travel between Hospital Rock and Giant Forest Museum due to Federal Highways limits; long vehicles cannot make the tight curves in the one-lane construction zone.

## **New Cedar Grove Bridge**

Bridge between Hwy 180 and Cedar Grove Village closed through 11/2012. Access the village and lodge via detour on Northside Road. Large vehicles & trailers use Lewis Creek Trailhead as a turnaround.

## **Other Road Repairs**

Expect brief intermittent delays on weekdays in several areas of the parks. North of Wuksachi at Halstead Meadow, expect 15-minute delays.

### Be Careful

Beware of narrow, rough roads in construction areas. Slow down. Use low gear on downhills.

# **Vehicle Length Limits**

• Hospital Rock Picnic Area to Giant Forest Museum on Generals Highway: Maximum is 22 feet cumulative length due to a very narrow single-lane road in the construction zone.

Alternatives: Hwy 180 from Fresno is straighter, less steep, and wider. If towing a car, camp in the foothills and use the car.

- Potwisha Campground to Hospital Rock Picnic Area: Advised maximum vehicle length is 22 feet. Maximum limit on other parts of the Generals Hwy is 40 feet for single vehicles, 50 feet for vehicle + towed unit.
- See *Narrow Winding Roads*, above left, for additional restrictions and guidelines.